

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A front-oriented, front-access printer (FOFAP), said FOFAP configured with a front-mounted fuser, said FOFAP comprising:
 - a print mechanism;
 - a main paper path passing through each of:
 - said print mechanism; and
 - said fuser;
 - a media flipper for re-directing print paper into a second path;
 - a stapler/stacker mounted in proximity to said front-mounted fuser; and
 - a redirector within said front-mounted fuser for redirecting said print paper from said second path to said stapler/stacker in response to selection of a staple/stacking feature.
2. The FOFAP of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a foldable offset tray for holding output from said stapler/stacker, wherein a main output tray is unobstructed when said foldable offset tray is in a folded position.
3. The FOFAP of claim 1 wherein said second path comprises a duplex printing path.
4. The FOFAP of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a trigger mechanism for manipulating said redirector in response to said selection.
5. The FOFAP of claim 2 wherein said trigger mechanism is activated when a trailing edge of said print paper exits said fuser.
6. The FOFAP of claim 2 wherein said output from said stapler/stacker is stacked in a same orientation as output to said main output tray.
7. The FOFAP of claim 1 wherein said print mechanism is a color print mechanism.

8. A method for redirecting print media to a front-mounted stapler/stacker assembly in a front-oriented, front-access printer (FOFAP) having a front-mounted fusing apparatus, said method comprising:

directing said print media through a print system;

guiding said print media through a fusing apparatus after said print system; and

re-directing said print media from an alternate path to said front-mounted stapler/stacker assembly using an existing media flipper for said alternate path, said re-directing being responsive to receiving a signal to perform a staple/offset function.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

depositing output from said front-mounted stapler/stacker assembly in a retractable output tray.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein said alternate path is a duplex print system path.

11. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

reversing a direction on said existing media flipper prior to said re-directing step in response to said signal.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said reversing is done after a trailing edge of said print media exists said fusing apparatus.

13. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

orienting said output in a same direction as completed print jobs in a main output tray.

14. The method of claim 8 wherein said print system is a color print system.

15. A printer having staple/offset stack features, said printer being front-oriented, front-access oriented, said printer comprising:
- printing means;
 - fusing means mounted in a front area of said printer;
 - media flipping means for directing said print media into a second printing path;
 - stacking means mounted in a front side of said printer for accumulating said print media pending execution of a staple/offset function; and
 - redirection means utilizing said media flipping means to deflect said print media into said stacking means in response to selection of said staple/offset stack capability.
16. The printer of claim 15 further comprising:
- retracting means associated with an offset output tray, wherein said offset output tray does not obstruct a main output tray when said retracting means is activated.
17. The printer of claim 15 wherein said second printing path is a duplex printing path.
18. The printer of claim 15 wherein said media flipping means reverses direction when directing said print media into said second printing path.
19. The printer of claim 15 further comprising:
- output means for outputting print media from said stacking means in a same orientation as print media output to a main output tray.
20. The printer of claim 15 wherein said printing means comprise color printing means.